

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 NIC-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /162 W

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R 070305Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8483

INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VS GA

SUBJ: GAMBIA FONMIN BADARA'S VISIT TO SAIGON

REF: BANJUL 455

1. SUMMARY: REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER BADARA N'JIE ENDED A FOUR DAY VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM THURSDAY AFTERNOON SEPT 5. DURING HIS VISIT, BADARA WAS RECEIVED BY PRES THIEU, AND HELD MEETINGS WITH PRIMIN KHIEM, INFORMATION MINISTER HOANG DUC NHA, HIS HOST FONMIN BAC AND OTHERS. HE SAID HIS GOVT RECOGNIZED THE RVN AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, EXPRESSED AND INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THE SEATING OF THE "PRG" AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, AND PROMISED TO SUPPORT THE GVN BY SPREADING ITS STORY WITHIN THE OAU. END SUMMARY.

2. GAMBIA EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALHAJI ALIEU BADARA N'JIE
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ARRIVED IN SAIGON SEPT 2 FOR A FOUR DAY VISIT, ON THE FIRST

LEG OF A FIVE NATION ASIAN TOUR ENROUTE TO THE 29TH UNGA IN NEW YORK. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ERIC HERBERT CHRISTENSEN, SECY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY AND AHMADOU SALLAH, DEPUTY SECY GENERAL OF THE FONMINISTRY. IN A SPEECH AT A DINNER PARTY HOSTED IN HIS HONOR BY FONMIN BAC, BADARA SAID, "MY GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES ONLY ONE SOLE AND LEGAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM PENDING THE HOLDING OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH...THE PARIS AGREEMENT...AND THAT IS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM UNDER PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU." HE CALLED FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND BLAMED CONTINUED WARFARE IN SOUTH VIETNAM ON THE "FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS" BY THE OTHER SIDE. THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE AND HIS PARTY WERE SURPRISED BY WHAT THEY FOUND TO BE THE REALITY IN VIETNAM, IN CONTRAST TO WHAT HE HAD THOUGHT PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL WOULD BE A "VIETNAM IN FLAMES". HE PROMISED ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE GVN IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND IN UN BODIES SUCH AS UNESCO, UNICEF, AND FAO, IN ALL OF WHICH SOUTH VIETNAM IS A MEMBER. THE GAMBIA'S PAST POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO THE ADMISSION OF HANOI'S SOUTHERN APPENDAGE, THE "PRG" TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WILL CONTINUE, HE SAID. THE GAMBIA, HE DECLARED, "IN HER CAPACITY AS A MEMBER NATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WILL MAKE THE MOST OF HER VOTE AT INTERNATIONAL FORA TO SUPPORT AND HELP TO RESTORE PEACE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND WILL CALL ON THE OAU COUNTRIES TO DO THE SAME."

3. IN THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT, THE FONMIN CALLED ON PRES THIEU AND PRIMIN KHIEM, MET AND CONFERRED WITH NOT ONLY FONMIN BAC AND INFORMATION MINISTER NHA, BUT SENATE AND LOWER HOUSE PRESIDENTS TRAN VAN LAM AND NGUYEN BKZCAN, PLUS MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AND THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR PLANNING. HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION, AS WELL.

4. IN THE FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE, BADARA EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION AT THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT"...AND NOTED WITH GRATIFICATION THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. MINISTER ALIEU BADARA NJIE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH THE CEASEFIRE HAD COME INTO EFFECT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, THE WAR WAS STILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAGING ON IN SOUTH VIETNAM BECAUSE THE COMMUNIST SIDE DOES NOT RESPECT THE PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT".

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE REPRESENTS ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL AFRICAN COUNTRY, SUCH STATEMENTS AS THOSE QUOTED ABOVE WERE MUSIC TO THE EARS OF GVN LEADERS WHO REACTED WITH PERCEPTIBLE ENTHUSIASM TO FONMIN BADARA'S VISIT AND WITH WARMTH TO HIS FRIENDLY PERSONALITY. GIVEN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF "PRG" FONMIN

MADAME NGUYEN THI BINH AT THE LAST OAU SUMMIT AND DIPLOMACY IN
AFRICA RECENTLY, GVN LEADERS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED
BY THE TIMING AND ATMOSPHERICS OF THE 70 YEAR OLD FONMINS VISIT.
GVN FONMIN BAC PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE VIEWS THE VISIT AS
"SETTING THE STAGE" FOR FORTHCOMING VISITS BY LEADERS FORM
TOGO, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND ZAIRE.
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